

Annual Operating Instructions

Indian Creek Allotment

2016 Grazing Season

Wilderness Ranger District
Gila National Forest



Agreed to By: /s/Permittee Date: 1.20.2016

Range Allotment Permittee

Prepared By: /s/ Melvin D. Burton Date: 1.20.2016

Melvin D. Burton,
USFS Wilderness Ranger District Range Manager

Approved By: /s/ Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton Date: 1.20.2016

Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton,
USFS Wilderness District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Indian Creek

Permittee:

Permit Number: 61446

A. Permitted Use

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Gila Mountain Ranches, LLC	50 Cow/Calf	Term	3/1-2/28
Gila Mountain Ranches, LLC	4 Horses	Term	3/1-2/28

B. Authorization

The following authorized to graze in 2015:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Gila Mountain Ranches, LLC	50 Cow/Calf	Term	3/1-2/28
Gila Mountain Ranches, LLC	4 Horses	Term	3/1-2/28

C. Counting Livestock

The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

1. All livestock six (6) months of age or older at the time of entering the National Forest and all weaned animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

D. Nonuse

Application for credit or refund must be made in writing and in advance by the Permittee to the District Ranger or District Range Manager using Form FS-2200-0001 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Wilderness Ranger District Office, the Permittee may phone in to notify the District Ranger or District Range Manager that a request for refund or credit will be submitted soon. The Permittee will then either complete Form FS-2200-0001 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Wilderness Ranger District Office, or request for the form to be mailed to the permittee. **Note:** Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is \$100.00 or more and the District Ranger or District Range Manager had been notified either in advance or at the time livestock were removed from NFS Lands. Form FS-2200-0001 can be provided in writing to the District Ranger or District Range Manager through postal mail or e-mail, or filled out in-person by visiting the District Office.

E. Bovine Trichomoniasis (Trich)

Prior to import into New Mexico, non-virgin breeding age bulls must test negative for Trich. Non-virgin breeding age bulls sold within the state of New Mexico must be tested negative within 30 days prior to change of ownership. As of February 26, 2010, bulls 12 months of age and older are required to have tested negative for Trich within 30 days prior to entry on the allotment. Virgin bulls not exposed to breeding are exempt from testing if less than 12 months of age. The past requirement of a signed affidavit from the owner for the virgin status of bulls 12 TO 24 months of age is no longer applicable. Please contact the New Mexico Livestock Board for more details. Documentation must be provided to the District Ranger or District Range Manager that demonstrates that bulls 12 months of age or older have tested negative for Trich within 30 days prior to entry on the allotment.

F. Management:

Indian Creek 2015 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Indian	3/1-2/28 (all livestock)
Heifer	3/1-2/28 (all livestock)
Holding 1: use for incidental gathering/shipping	Livestock will be placed in pasture during the time of shipping on and off the allotment.
Holding 2: use for incidental gathering/shipping	Livestock will be placed in pasture during the time of shipping on and off the allotment.

Please notify the District Ranger or District Range Manager of livestock movements onto and off of the allotment, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If the Permittee identifies the need to differ from this management system by more than 15 days, please contact the District Ranger or District Range Manager at the District Office at least two weeks in advance so the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess the request.

G. Utilization Standards and Monitoring

In accordance with the Decision Notice signed on September 1, 1995, the allowable use level set for the Indian Creek Allotment will be light to conservative use (10-40%). Key areas and restricted areas (such as owl Protected Activity Centers) will be visited to determine actual grazing use and seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. Monitoring will be conducted within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture. If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, the Permittee is required to move livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If livestock cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact the District Ranger or District Range Manager. Livestock will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments may be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations.

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. The Permittee is highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District personnel and/or independently.

Pasture	Monitoring date
Indian	5/22 & 9/24
Heifer	5/22 & 9/24
Holding 1	5/22 & 9/24
Holding 2	5/22 & 9/24

H. Forage Growth and Water Availability

Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of the Term Grazing Permit, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the current grazing season.

I. Salt and Supplement Policy

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

1. Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
2. Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
3. Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
4. Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
5. Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, no feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands.
6. Locate salt and supplements beyond view from roads, trails, campgrounds and trailheads.

J. Range Improvements

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

Advance notification, planning and agreement are required for stock tank cleaning and range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems, to evaluate the need for surveys. General maintenance/repair is excluded from this requirement. The District Ranger or District Range Manager must be notified by phone or email in advance (at least 2 weeks, except for emergencies) if these types of work are proposed. The Permittee must wait for agreement from the District Ranger or District Range Manager before proceeding with the work.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

When fence maintenance is conducted, fences must be wildlife friendly. For example, fences should have a smooth bottom wire.

It is very important, and required, to continue assigned range improvements maintenance while in non-use or partial-use status.

1. Completed Improvements in 2015

The following range improvements were completed during the past grazing season:

a. Fences

- i. 001215
- ii. 001071
- iii. 001228

b. Water Systems

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

c. Other

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

2. Planned Improvements for 2016

The following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season:

a. Fences

- i. 001215
- ii. 001071
- iii. 001228

b. Water Systems

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

c. Other

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

K. Term Grazing Permit and Compliance

The Indian Creek Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the September 1, 1995, Indian Creek Allotment Decision Notice. The AOI also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.